(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the measures to be adopted to address the problems of the domestic hoteliers mentioned in the newsitem?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major hotel chains of India are already operating in many foreign countries. With liberalization and globalization of the Indian economy, Indian entrepreneurs are looking for investment opportunities abroad. Likewise many foreign companies are investing in the Hotel Industry in India. Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs.48611.47 million has been approved by the Government in Hotel and Tourism Sector from April, 1991 to April, 2002.

(c) Government has provided several fiscal and tax incentives to the Hotel and Tourism sector in India.

Delegation sent to Gulf countries on tourism

†2205. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently sent a delegation to visit the Gulf countries for the purpose of promoting the Indian tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the said tour?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The delegation was led by the Minister for Civil Aviation and visited Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Muscat and Bahrain. It included Tourism Ministers from some States, Governments officials and private sector representatives. With a view to promote Tourism to India from this region, a number of seminars, workshops, interviews and India Evenings were organised. In addition, several meetings were also held with counterpart Ministries and Departments. As a result of this promotional exercise, a number of new packages have been launched to give further impetus to flow of tourists from this region.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.